

Pyramid Lake Fishery's Truckee River Barrier Removal and Riparian Restoration

Program Summary

The Pyramid Lake Paiute is a Federally Recognized Tribe. The proposed project is comprised of two parts, removal of fish passage barriers, and restoration of selected reaches on the lower Truckee River. The project is primarily intended to help cui-ui (*Chasmistes cujus*) and Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*). This project is intended to be completed within one fiscal year. Partial funding of this project could be practicable.

As the stewards of a terminal lake (Pyramid Lake), and the recipient of all downstream impacts, Pyramid Lake Fisheries (PLF) is progressing on a reach-by-reach river restoration program. In collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and the State of Nevada Question 1 Process (administered by Washoe County), Pyramid Lake Fisheries will continue the active removal of fish passage barriers and effect habitat restoration on Tribal-owned land. The habitat improvement is directed to bank stabilization, riparian cover recruitment, and improvement of microhabitat for at-risk amphibians.

The USFWS has worked closely with the Tribe to remove the Olinghouse fish passage barriers. PLF will take the leadership in this process and add a component of bank stabilization and wetland plant re-establishment. PLF has substantial experience with both large construction projects and wetland restoration.

Program Narrative

This project addresses several major priorities of the PLF's 10-year management plan: Protection of spawning habitat, removal of passage barriers, and collaboration with State and Federal Agencies. The benefits of these priorities will last indefinitely into the future.

Needs Assessment

1. Restoration

PLF's goal is to remove/modify two fish passage barriers, and restore and stabilize 2 miles of riparian habitat.

This project would allow for the removal/modification of fish passage barriers essential to the recovery of the LCT. Not only would it allow upstream and downstream fish passage, it would dedicate riparian habitat for protection, and tie in to the FWS and Tribal watershed management plans (Truckee River Implementation Team Short-Term Action Plan, and Pyramid Lake Fishery's 10-year cui-ui and LCT management plan).

This proposal commitment multiplies the benefit of this grant to Listed and "at risk" species: Ideal habitat for the LCT is secured for recovery and restored to fully functional condition.